

Augustinian

Augustus Lutheran Church

An Historic Church for Today's People



FEBRUARY 2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The first Sunday in February is a festival we usually celebrate only when February 2 falls on a Sunday. The Presentation of Our Lord commemorates the events 40 days after Jesus' birth: Mary comes to the Temple to be purified according to Jewish Law and Jesus, as her first-born son, is presented to the Lord. The day has traditionally been called the Purification of Mary by Lutherans, but in an American context filled with anti-Catholic bigotry, we have adopted the more neutral title, the Presentation of Our Lord. The Presentation of Our Lord is referred to in some corners of the church as Candlemas because of an ancient tradition of dedicating all the candles to be used in the church in the coming year at the service celebrated on that day. It was a way of underscoring the truth of Simeon's confession that this baby Jesus was "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" and a light for glory to Israel. With the invention of liquid wax candles, this practice has largely disappeared.

Our Congregation Meeting to approve the final 2024 financial and committee reports will be held on Sunday, February 9, 2025, at 11:30 a.m., immediately after the 10:30 a.m. service. Please make sure to be there for this brief but necessary meeting. I can tell you Regular Member Giving in 2024 was the highest it has been in the last 10 years. Average weekly attendance continues to increase as we continue to recover from the negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Every Sunday at Augustus we gather around God's Word to hear how much God loves us and how much he has done for us, especially through the life, death, and resurrection of his only Son, Jesus. Why not invite someone to join you for worship who needs to hear the Good News? It will be a blessing for both of you.

May God the Holy Trinity
bless you and keep you,
fill you with courage,
and ✝ give you peace.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Weleck

P.S. See you Sunday!



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR...

Youth Group Soup Sales!

The Senior Youth Group and friends will be preparing and selling quarts of soup after both services on the following dates:

February 16

March 16



This is a great way to support our Youth Group in their projects—including their annual mission trip—and enjoy some delicious homemade soup! If you've had them before, you know they're amazing. If not, this is your year to give them a try!

Director of Music

Happy 2025, and thank you, Augustus, for making my first month here both welcoming and comfortable! Please introduce yourself to me and come up to the organ after the Postlude to talk, or if you have any comments or questions.

The choir has now been sitting in the back two pews so they can be a part of the beginning of Worship and hear the Prelude. After recessing, they can help support the congregational singing of the entire last hymn; and then remain to listen to the postlude – why not stay and listen too?

In January I have been including notes about the Prelude to show how it connects to a hymn in the Service or to the season of the Church Year; I hope they have been helpful. There may also be notes during Communion. In February we will be learning a new hymn: I Want to Walk As A Child of the Light; a beautiful hymn for the season of Epiphany.



Ten Important Dogmas of the Lutheran Church

By Bo Kristian Holm, Associate Professor, Systematic Theology, Aarhus University



6. Baptism

Being baptized is being connected to the death and resurrection of Christ and being invited into God's grace. This is an accepted Christian belief that is rooted in the New Testament. Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist (Mark 1:9-11; Matthew 3:13-19) and according to the Gospel of Matthew (chapter 18, verse 19) he sends the disciples out in the world to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. The early Christian creeds stem from the confession of the triune God at baptism. When baptized, the person becomes a child of God and is given everything that belongs to Christ. See Article IX of the Augsburg Confession.

Augsburg Confession: [IX. Concerning Baptism]

“Concerning baptism, it is taught that it is necessary, that grace is offered through it, and that one should also baptize children, who through such baptism are entrusted to God and become pleasing to him.

Rejected, therefore, are the Anabaptists who teach that the baptism of children is not right.”





This annual fundraiser helps support medical missionaries Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson to save infants and children at the

Arusha Lutheran Medical Center in Tanzania

*Food Prep

*Food Service

*Set-up/Clean-up

*Craft Fair



* Parking and SO MUCH MORE

The Turkey Dinner Committee would greatly appreciate early commitments to plan for this year's fundraiser. If you are able to provide an early commitment, please reach out to Nancy Loughery (nancylooughery63@gmail.com) or Dale O'Hara (oharadvd@aol.com)

Mark your calendars now and plan to help for

Saturday April 26th

WE SIMPLY CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT:



Brian O'Hara © 2019
brianohara24@gmail.com

Women's Ministries

A member of Women of the ELCA

**FOURTH TUESDAY
OF EVERY MONTH
AT 7:00 PM**

*** ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND ***

FOR MORE INFO: oharadvd@aol.com

Christian Education

Sunday school kicked off the new year with the story of the magi bringing gifts to the baby Jesus. We honor the magi every year by bringing gifts for needy children in our area through St. James' Outreach House.

During Epiphany we'll be learning about Jesus' miracles: events that made everyone around him have the "epiphany" that he was the Son of God. Our Interim Director of Music, Bruce Yonkin, has joined us in Sunday school as we learn songs appropriate for this season of light. We're so thankful for his ministry.

Our confirmation students are looking forward to hearing all about the history of Augustus from our guest teacher, Jen Wentworth. The rest of February will be spent learning about the Reformation from Pastor Weleck.

We're also looking forward to enjoying the delicious soups provided by our wonderful senior high youth group. Don't forget to pick up some on the third Sundays in winter. They are so delicious you'll be disappointed when winter ends!

Blessings,

Sonya Sowards



2025 Congregational Meeting *Part 1*

February 9, 2025

Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on February 9, 2025 following the 10:30 am service. Committee reports will be presented during this meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP NEWS

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The Senior Youth Group hopes that the congregation is doing well. January has been colder, so hopefully our soups are keeping you warm. The soup sales are held the 3rd Sunday of January, February and March. If you're not able to attend the services on those days and would like soups, send us an e-mail (see below) and we can deliver them.

Please join the SYG on Tuesday, March 4th for the annual Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner. January's activity was a trip to the Works in Reading for dinner and games. Laser tag was fun for half of the crew, as they won all 3 games. The lock in that was scheduled, was postponed until 2/8 due to illnesses.

The SYG meets on the first Wednesday and the 3rd Sunday of each month (September thru May), as well as various other days for activities and fund raisers. All youth in 9th -12th grades can take part in the SYG. If you're new to the congregation and have a teen in high school, reach out to one of the leaders and we'll make sure you get information on our group.

The SYG is looking for a couple of new leaders to help in future years. Please let us know if you are interested. It's a very rewarding experience and we'd like to pass on our knowledge to a new group of leaders. New people bring new ideas and that is always a good thing.

Cathy Meeley, tcmeeley@verizon.net

Joe Schaffer, joe.schaffer.44@gmail.com

Liz Wentworth, lizwentworth@yahoo.com

Gary Wessner, gtwess@comcast.net



Graceful Generosity

Published to help you grow as a steward of God's grace.

Under Authority

Robert Wilder, founder of the Student Volunteer Movement, sat one day in a hotel in Poona, India. A naval officer with whom he was talking finally said, "Why don't you missionaries stay at home and mind your own business?"

At the time the British fleet had been ordered to Constantinople because of the serious Armenian massacres. Wilder faced the officer and said: "Suppose you were ordered to take your battleships to Constantinople tomorrow, and I would say, 'Why don't you stay here and mind your business? There is no sense in your going to the Bosphorus.'"

The officer, his dark eyes flashing, returned, "I would tell you to mind your business. When we are ordered to go, we must go, even if every ship is sunk and every sailor killed."

Wilder then rejoined: "You are right. I also have marching orders, not from any human government, but from the divine government. My command is to preach the Gospel to every living creature. India has one-fifth of the world's population and the primary question is not what the cost is but whether I am going to obey the command of my Savior and Lord."

The Christian steward's marching orders are, The Entire World; and, at whatever cost of time, money, prayer, life, Christians must carry on until the whole world has heard the glad story of redemption.

ΑΩ



On the Lighter Side

People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the center of attention.

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

"Reverend," said the young man. "I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip."

The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."

A lady was mailing an old family Bible to her brother. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.

We Are Lights in a Dark World

We are new creations in Christ, the Apostle Paul declares (2 Corinthians 5:17)! As such, we no longer view ourselves or others the way we once did. We have a new role; we are ambassadors for Christ, *“as though God were making his appeal through us”* (2 Corinthians 5:20). And those to whom he appeals are the lost for whom Christ has died. What a sober responsibility we have! As stewards of the Gospel that we spread not just with our mouths, but with our actions as well, let us implore God to enable us to be his light in this dark world.

I Never Pledge

“I never sign a pledge of any kind,” said a man whom I was soliciting.

“Are you sure?” I asked.

“Yes,” he replied.

“Do you own your home?” I questioned.

“Yes, but it is mortgaged for half its value.”

“Did you promise to pay interest on your mortgage?”

“Yes.”

“When your telephone was installed, did agree to pay monthly charges?”

“Yes. What are you driving at?”

“As a matter of fact,” I answered, “have you not committed the larger portion of your income to everything your home needs except the church? I surrender,” he said.

R. Cashman

Choosing Our Path


God wants us to follow him, but he gives us the freedom to choose what path we will take

and whom we will serve. As we stand at the crossroads of life, God continually reaches out to us through his Word. In Jeremiah 6:16 we read, *“This is what the Lord says: ‘Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.’”* Daily we are at the crossroads of life. The choice we make is our own. As Yogi Berra said, “When you get to a fork in the road, take it.” The road we take will have eternal consequences. Will we choose God’s way or the ways of the world? With God’s help, our answer can be like Joshua’s. *“But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the river, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord”* (Joshua 24:15).

Joshua’s choice was that he and his family would be servants and stewards of the Lord. When you reach the crossroads in life, you will hear God’s call, “Follow Me.” The call to serve yourself and the ways of the world will be loud and boisterous. If you don’t reject God’s call and you follow, as Jeremiah did, the ancient paths, you will turn away from your self-interests and focus on ways to serve the Lord. Your lifestyle will reflect your relationship with him. As followers of Jesus, we acknowledge God’s ownership and love. We become stewards of what he entrusts to us. As followers of the Lord, we see others as brothers and sisters in Christ. We live with an eternal perspective.



Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!



Lecture Series

**Revolution and Registration:
Pennsylvania German Enslavers**

February 18 • 7 pm

Lecture by James M. Beidler

Held at St. Luke's, 200 W. Main Street, Trappe, PA 19426.

FREE, including light refreshments
The spring lecture series is sponsored by the Concordia Trust.

Join us for the kickoff to our spring lecture series with a special talk in conjunction with Black History Month focusing on the difficult topic of Pennsylvania German enslavers. Scholarly comments on the Pennsylvania Germans and slavery have ranged anywhere from assertions that “Germans generally held no slaves” to claims that “more Germans in Colonial Philadelphia were enslavers than other groups.” Explore the reality with speaker James M. Beidler, a Pennsylvania German researcher and genealogist, who will use his own family history as a case study. Beidler will also delve into Pennsylvania's Gradual Abolition Act of 1780 and its legacy.

Photo credit: Record Group 26, Records of the Department of State Bureau of Commissions, Elections, and Legislation Engrossed Laws (series #26.57) Courtesy of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Pennsylvania State Archives

2025 Vestry		
Member	Special Area	E-mail Address
Gary Wessner	President/Property	gtwess@comcast.net
Dick Allebach	Vice President	Doot44@gmail.com
Alison Fishell	Secretary	alisonfishell@gmail.com
Jeannie Funk	General Treasurer	jeanniefunk@gmail.com
Sherry Jessee	Trust Fund Treasurer	dsajessee@hotmail.com
John Kochel	Parish Life	John.kochel@thrivent.com
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Brian O'Hara	Outreach	Brian.ohara24@gmail.com
Shane Elison	Christian Education	scrabbie1@aol.com
Jennifer Wentworth	Old Church Committee	jawentw@aol.com
Matthew Vera	Cemetery Committee	Matthew_vera@verizon.net



**Remember Augustus in your
Estate Planning**

We have a beautiful campus to maintain.

If you are considering a gift, please talk with Pastor Weleck about where funds are most needed.

ALL QUILTS GO TO LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

AUGUSTUS QUILTERS

A Social Group of
Augustus Women of the ELCA
Hearts & Hands Committee

FIRST WEDNESDAY & THIRD TUESDAY
OF EVERY MONTH AT 9:30 AM

*** ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND ***

FOR MORE INFO: jandmstuffle@verizon.net

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brian.ohara24@gmail.com

Knitting n' Crocheting

A Social Group of
Augustus Women of the ELCA
Hearts & Hands Committee

SECOND & FOURTH MONDAY
OF EVERY MONTH AT 7:00 PM

*** ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND ***

FOR MORE INFO: jandmstuffle@verizon.net

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Dear Augustus Lutheran Church,

On this Christmas Day, we want to extend our heartfelt wish for peace and joy in this season and throughout the next year. We are all so aware of the lack of peace in families, in countries throughout this world, yet we continue to hope for a better tomorrow, a more peaceful year to come.

We have the joy of caring for so many babies in our line of work, born in the most difficult, extreme of circumstances. With the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we are once again wondering at the humble manner in which He entered the world. Not only in an unclean stable, but as a vulnerable newborn with traveling parents who found "no room in the inn." May our hearts and homes be open to the strangers and the vulnerable in our world.

With love,
Jodi and Steve

Our mailing address is:

Steve and Jodi Swanson
c/o Michael Swanson
16608 Early Dawn Trail
Lakeville, MN 55044



We are supported through the gifts of churches with the ELCA. Churches and individuals can donate to our support through the ELCA: elca.org/missionarygiving
Find our names under the drop down tab, Designation: ELCA Missionary Sponsorship



A beautiful Maasai mother of newborns twins, born premature with birth weights of 2.2 lbs each (1000 grams). They are receiving full care in our NICU at no cost, due to harsh circumstances in her own life. The twins are thriving.

Care of hospitalized newborns and children, and training of doctors and nurses, is supported through your donations. GHM and ICHA are registered 501(c)3, tax-deductible.

www.give.ghm.org/nicu or www.ichafrica.org

For more information and videos: ichafrica.org

Funds received through
Institute for Child Healthcare Africa
(www.ichafrica.org)
or **Global Health Ministries**
(<https://give.ghm.org/nicu>)

are directed in entirety towards clinical pediatric training of doctors and nurses in Tanzania, care of babies in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), medications, bed fees, and food for malnourished children.



A g s t s WELCA T r k e y S p p e r

ALL THAT'S MISSING IS :

U!

This annual fundraiser helps support medical missionaries Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson working to save the lives of infants and children at the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center in Tanzania.

YOUR help is needed!

- *Food Prep
- *Set-up/Clean up
- *Food Service
- *Craft Fair
- * Parking and SO MUCH MORE

The Turkey Dinner Committee would greatly appreciate early commitments by the end of January to facilitate the evaluation of the feasibility for this year's fundraiser. If you are able to provide an early commitment, please reach out to Nancy Loughery (nancyloughery63@gmail.com) or Dale O'Hara (oharadvd@aol.com)

Mark your calendars now and plan to help on

Saturday April 26th

WE SIMPLY CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

U!

February Birthdays

2 Cassidy Hones Joseph Swan	3 Cole Kutteroff	4	5 Jennifer Maurer Brett Schulz	6 Avery Benner Nancy Bunting Dylan Firth Curtis Watro Jerry Wentworth	7	8 Cathy Menendez Wyatt Mourar
9 Mona Chylack Rebecca Wilson	10	11 David Linsenbigler	12 Jeffrey Stuffle	13	14 Jeff Bauder Tresa Franz Griffin Henze McKenzie Peters	15 Liz Rutter
16 Jake Smith	17 Andy Fisher Jeffrey Wentworth	18 Taylor Brennan Douglas Stearly	19	20 Ellen Davis	21 Graham Anderson Andrew Keim Brent Wagenseller Joseph Yosko	22 Olivia Hart Elizabeth Staples
23 Mary Reese Robert Yost	24 Carol Oelschlager Mirabel Park	25 Susan Landis	26 Charlotte Wentworth	27	28 Ally Napier Ro Lehman	



PASTA BUFFET DINNER FEBRUARY 8th

You, your family, and friends are invited to a delicious meal of Penne Pasta with Meat Sauce, Spaghetti, a variety of Soups, Salad, Fruit and home-made desserts in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 8, 2025. Dinner will be served between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Reservations are not necessary, and you may arrive at your convenience. There is no cost for the meal; however, you may donate towards the Augustus Soup Kitchen Outreach.

There will also be information for anyone who wants to learn more about volunteering for the Soup Kitchen. We serve lunch to the needy on the second Wednesday of every month at St. John's Episcopal Church in Norristown. Plan now to drop-in for dinner at Augustus on February 8th to support this important outreach and to enjoy the fellowship.

"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited me in." (Matthew 25:35)

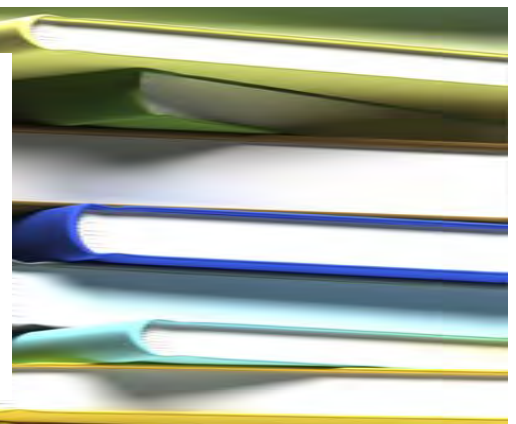


Augustus Book Club

The next meeting of the Augustus Book Club will be held on **Monday, February 17, 2025 at 7:00 pm** in the Vestry Room.

We will discuss Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano

Want more info?
Contact Karen McClain 610-489-9625 or
office@augustustrappe.org



Gracious Givers

Lay Reader Message

Disciples of the Cross

In Ephesians 2:1 and 4, the Apostle Paul writes, "*As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins . . . but because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ . . .*" Before Christ, we were dead in sin. Through no effort of our own, we have been made alive "with Christ"!

Now what? Now what, indeed! Yes, Christ has saved us for eternity, but that eternity begins at Baptism. Some of us will spend only a short portion of eternity on earth, others much longer, but all of us are called to make these days count. In the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19, Jesus calls us to "*go and make disciples of all nations.*" He asks us, empowered by Word and Sacrament, to carry on his work.

There are many facets to the work of the Church. Not all of us are preachers and teachers of the Word, but we read in 1 Peter 4:10 that each of us has a gift and each of us is to use this gift to serve others. Peter speaks of offering hospitality and serving as gifts which God has given to edify the Church. The Apostle Paul writes about spiritual gifts to the Romans, the Corinthians, and the Ephesians, each time stressing the point that we are to use what gifts we've been given for the good of the Body of Christ and according to the grace we've been given.

Jesus said:

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it." (Matthew 16:24-25).

This is the challenge Jesus issues to each of us individually and to the Church collectively. Alive in Christ, we pick up the cross and, joyfully, just as Jesus, "*who for the joy set before him endured the cross*" (Hebrews 12:2), carry it wherever Jesus leads us. There is no life apart from Christ. As disciples of the cross who have found this to be true, let us carry this message to the world.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>February</h1>						1 11:30 am Comm. Club Event
2 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion	3	4 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting	5 9:00 am Quilting 2:00 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm 3-in-1	6 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Vocal Choir	7	8 5:00 pm Soup Kitchen Fundraiser Dinner
9 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion 11:30 am Annual Meeting	10 7:00 pm Knitting	11 7:00 pm Comm. Club	12 9:00 am Soup Kitchen 6:00 pm 3-in-1	13 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Vocal Choir	14	15
16 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion Youth Group Soup Sale!	17 7:00 pm Book Club	18 9:00 am Quilting 7:00 pm CC Board Meeting	19 2:00 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm 3-in-1	20 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Vocal Choir	21	22
23 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion	24 7:00 pm Knitting	25 7:00 pm Committee Night	26 6:00 pm 3-in-1	27 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Vocal Choir	28	

**Soup
FOR THE
SOUL**

**FREE-WILL OFFERING
dinner**

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 08
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

A PASTA BUFFET DINNER WITH SOUP, SALAD, FRUIT, HOME-MADE DESSERTS
Proceeds Benefit Augustus Lutheran Church Soup Kitchen Outreach

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brianohara24@gmail.com